GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:81
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002
SCHEME FOR AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED RURAL INDUSTRIES
KAILASH MEGHWAL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICAR and other institutions have proposed certain schemes for promoting agriculture and allied rural industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is far behind in foodgrains production in comparison to other countries; and

(d) if so, the efforts made to improve the competitiveness of India in agriculture and allied sectors?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ICAR and SAUs are involved primarily in R&D in agriculture for increasing production of agriculture and horticulture crops, fisheries and animal products through its different Institutions. This is being done through 96 ICAR Institutes/NRCs/PDs/Bureaus, 77 AICRP`s 34 SAUs, 1 CAU and 5 Deemed Universities.

(c) No, Sir. India is not far behind in food production as compared to other countries. As per Agricultural Research Data Book 2001 published by IASRI/ICAR, New Delhi, the ranking of India in production of different commodities is as under :

Item	Rank	Next to
Cereals	Third	China, USA
Wheat	Second	China
Rice	Second	China
Total pulses	First	

(d) Efforts are being made in the ICAR Institutes & SAUs to develop hybirds high yielding and genetically improved varieties of seeds and other planting material, improved breeds of animals and fisheries for higher production, inputs and farm equipment that will lead to development of precision farming to increase further production, productivity with quality in agricultural produce at reduced cost of production.

Efforts are also being made to intensify research on the development of commercially viable technology for achieving higher yield thresholds in various crops/agro-ecologies. Biotechnology is also being developed and applied to Agriculture to make it more competitive.